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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/516,416	07/05/2005	Rainer Stoll	2732-153	5734

6449 7590 10/24/2007
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SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

JOERGER, KAITLIN S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3653

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/24/2007

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PTO-PAT-Email@rfem.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/516,416

Applicant(s)

STOLL ET AL.

Examiner

Kaitlin S. Joerger

Art Unit

3653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 December 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/2/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2, 3, 4, 8-11, 13-16, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 2 recites the limitation "the friction device" in line 5. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 100 08 135 A1, as cited by applicant.

Regarding claim 1, the DE '135 patent teaches a friction singler for singling sheet-shaped value documents, 1, comprising:

- a sheet magazine, 5, for receiving a stack of sheets, 1;
- a picking device with a singler, 2, the singler element having, for contacting and conveying the sheets, 1a, to be singled from the sheet magazine, 5, one or more

friction elements, 4, with at least one groove, see figure 1b, extending in the transport direction of the sheets, 1a, to be singled, and a retaining device, 3, which forms with the singler element, 2, a singler gap, 7, through which sheets, 1a, to be singled are conveyed from the sheet magazine, 5, and which has friction areas, 3a, of high coefficient of friction and sliding areas, 3b, of low coefficient of friction cooperating with the groove of the singler element, see figure 1b;

- characterized in that the groove of the singler element cooperates both with a friction area and with a sliding area of the retaining device, see figure 1b.

Regarding claim 2, the DE '135 patent teaches a friction singler characterized in that the singler element, 2, has a plurality of grooves extending in the transport direction of the sheets, 1a, to be singled, and at least two grooves of the singler element each cooperate both with a friction area, 3a, and a sliding area, 3b, of the friction device, see figure 1b.

Regarding claim 3, the DE '135 patent teaches a friction singler characterized in that the order of friction and sliding areas, 3a and 3b, cooperating with the grooves, viewed transversely to the transport direction, is different for different grooves, see figure 1b.

Regarding claim 4, the DE '135 patent teaches a friction singler characterized in that the order is opposite for adjacent grooves, see figure 1b.

Regarding claim 5, the DE '135 patent teaches that the retaining device comprises one or more retaining wheels see figures 1a and 1b.

Regarding claim 6 and 14-19, the DE '135 patent teaches that the singler element is a singler roller, 2, see figure 1a.

Regarding claim 7, the DE '135 patent teaches that the documents are bank notes.

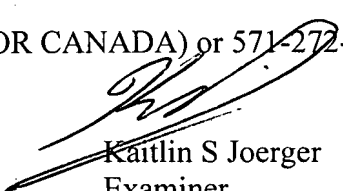
Regarding claim 8, the DE '135 patent teaches that the at least two grooves includes all grooves, see figure 1b.

Regarding claims 9-13, the DE '135 patent teaches that the retaining device comprises one or more retaining wheels having the friction areas and sliding areas, see figure 1b.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kaitlin S. Joerger whose telephone number is 571-272-6938. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Mackey can be reached on 571-272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Kaitlin S Joerger
Examiner
Art Unit 3653

19 October 2007

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